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Work and Workers.

THE Palestine Exploration Fund has applied for a firman for further explorations in Palestine, and it is expected that permission will soon be received, so that work can be carried forward again.

PROFESSOR J. W. PLATNER, of the Harvard Divinity School, has been called to a chair of church history in Andover Theological Seminary, and will take up work there at the beginning of the seminary year, in September.

THE death of Sir Walter Besant, honorary secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund, took place at his residence in Hampstead, England, on June 9. He was a man of culture, wide knowledge, and great administrative ability. It is said by those who best knew him and his work that the success of the Palestine Exploration Fund was mainly due to his love of the Bible and appreciation of the results of investigation in the Holy Land.

AN imperial concession has been granted to the municipality of Jerusalem to bring water from Wady 'Arûb, which lies three hours from Jerusalem, one-half hour south of the Pools of Solomon. There is a large reservoir in the wady, 240 × 160 feet, well preserved and lined with masonry. Another reservoir, a smaller one, lies higher up the valley to the west. The water from this valley, collected in these two reservoirs, was formerly conducted to the Pools of Solomon, and from there to Jerusalem. We are not yet told how the conduit will be arranged, but one may suppose that the old conduit is to be repaired for the purpose.

PROFESSOR D. A. HAYES, S.T.D., of Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill., and a member of the Council of Seventy, has been appointed to the chair of New Testament exegesis in the same institution. This chair became vacant by the resignation in February last of Professor Charles F. Bradley, D.D. Dr. Bradley spent last year in Europe, in the effort to regain his health, but has not found it possible to take up work again. Professor Hayes formerly held the professorship of English exegesis in Garrett Biblical Institute, to which he came some years ago from the chair of historical and biblical theology in the Iliff School of Theology at Denver, Colo.

IT is now definitely announced by the publishing house of Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, that the American Standard Edition of the Revised Version will be published by them this month. This edition, prepared by the American Committee of Revisers, has been awaited for many months, and will be received cordially by all Bible students. It is anticipated that the many improvements introduced by the American Committee will make the American edition of the Revised Version much superior to that of 1881 and 1885, as issued by the Oxford and Cambridge Presses of England. Bible students cannot be urged too strongly to purchase and use this edition of the English Bible.

A SERIES of three conferences upon "The Work of the Pastor" were held at the University of Chicago on June 19 to 21, which were largely attended. Subjects discussed, chiefly by Chicago pastors, were the "Prayer-Meeting" and "Revivals." One conference was upon "The Sunday School," at which Professor Shailer Mathews, of the University of Chicago, read a paper upon "The Question of Curriculum," and Professor W. D. Mackenzie, of Chicago Theological Seminary, a paper upon "The Teaching Pastor;" while a general discussion was given to the problem of "How to Achieve Results through the Sunday School." A special feature of the conferences was three lectures by Professor Marcus Dods, D.D., of New College, Edinburgh, Scotland, upon "The Teaching of Paul."

PLANS which have been for some time under discussion for the removal of the Bible Normal College of Springfield, Mass., to some other city, in order to bring it into close connection with some regularly established theological seminary, have now been matured. The college is to be removed to Hartford, Conn., and will be affiliated with Hartford Theological Seminary. This alliance of the two institutions promises much for both of them. The Bible Normal College has been one of the most influential institutions organized to introduce the new pedagogy and new psychology into the teaching of the Bible, and to emphasize the teaching function of the church. Having found that certain courses given in regular seminary work were necessary for their students, it was desired to place the institution where such courses might be available, as will be the case at Hartford; while the influence of the college upon the theological seminary will be equally useful. It is expected that the college will be moved to Hartford so that the regular school year can begin there in September.

A SMALL museum has been arranged in the government school at Jerusalem, where a large room has been set apart for the purpose by Ismail Bey, the local director of public instruction. In this museum, in six large glass cases, has been arranged an interesting and valuable collection of archæological finds. Case No. 1 contains 101 examples of pre-Israelite pottery, including specimens from Tell el-Hesi. Case No. 2 contains 116 examples of Jewish pottery, including a series of stamped jar-handles. Case No. 3 contains 184 specimens of Seleucidan ware. Case No. 4 is a miscellaneous group in which are pottery figurines, human and animal, and various objects in bronze, iron, bone, and stone. Cases Nos. 5 and 6 contain scarabs, gems, tablets, coins, and glass objects. The greater portion of the collection was placed in the museum by Ismail Bey. The coins were classified by Dr. Selah Merrill, United States consul at Jerusalem. It is hoped that permission will soon be received for the appointment of a keeper of the collection and for the printing of a catalogue. The locality of the museum is just inside Herod's Gate.

M. CLERMONT-GANNEAU writes in the Palestine Exploration Fund *Quarterly Statement* for July upon the Mâdeba map. He proposes the following theory as to the origin of the map : Mâdeba is situated close to Mount Nebo, and therefore in the immediate neighborhood where Moses received from Jehovah the order to climb the summit of Pisgah, and to contemplate in one supreme vision the whole extent of the land of Canaan, the land of promise, which was to belong to his people. He therefore thinks that it was association with these events which brought the map to Mâdeba, that city being in the Byzantine period the most important town in this region, sacred to the memory of Moses. Might it not be, the writer asks, that this geographical picture, which was virtually unrolled before the eyes of Moses, was for that reason reproduced in the mosaic of the basilica of Mâdeba, the town standing nearest to the memorable historical scene ? This hypothesis would explain the care with which the author of the mosaic indicated the distribution of the territory, according to the tribes of Israel, and the mention of the various benedictions, not only of Jacob (Gen., chap. 49), but also of Moses (Gen., chap. 33), concerning the said tribes. It would also explain why the map comprises, not only the promised land properly so called, but also lower Egypt ; that is to say, the scene of the great deeds of Moses and of the events preceding the exodus which took place in this region. To the objection that the Palestine of the map is Christian and Byzantine, contemporaneous with the author of the

mosaic in the fifth century A. D., he replies that the map was ideal at best, and naturally took the features of the country as then known, but there is a constant endeavor of the *mosaïste* to recall for each locality the principal locations of the Old Testament. Another possible objection to the hypothesis is that the map is orientated to the east, as though the spectator was viewing Palestine from the Mediterranean. This is the opposite standpoint from which Moses would see the promised land from Mount Nebo. But to this it is answered that the one who made the mosaic map in all probability copied it from an earlier Palestine map — that of Eusebius, or of some other — and did not alter it from the orientation which it originally had. The view is certainly an interesting one, and fits in with many of the facts concerning the location of this map at Mâdeba and the general features which it presents. The frontispiece of this number presents a photograph of the traditional Mount Nebo, as seen from the southeast, in the neighborhood of Mâdeba.